

## **Community Alternatives to Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities Demonstration Grant Abstract**

### ***Kansas***

The Kansas Community Based Alternatives Project will provide a community-based service alternative to treatment in a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for qualifying participants through both diversion and transition.

In 1997, Kansas successfully implemented a 1915(c) HCBS Serious Emotional Disturbance Waiver statewide. Due to this existing waiver, much of the infrastructure necessary to effectively implement this demonstration project is already in place. Existing infrastructure includes a sophisticated outcomes reporting process for enrolled children and youth, familiarity with the HCBS application process, an existing system of care supported by a Wrap Around Philosophy, established connections between the Mental Health, Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice and Education agencies, as well as statewide required training for providers. The demonstration will improve community services by making them available to an additional population of children/youth.

The State of Kansas needs additional service options for children and youth who are not able to meet the eligibility criteria of HCBS SED Waiver; they do not need the Level of Care provided in a state psychiatric hospital but do have chronic mental health/behavior issues that require treatment in a residential setting. The demonstration will offer a similar set of services as are offered under the current SED waiver designed to prevent the need for a psychiatric residential treatment program, but to a different population. The demonstration will target youth at risk of placement in a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility.

The goals of the project are to divert children/youth at risk of placement in a psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility and to transition children/youth residing in a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility back into the community.

- A Level of Care Assessment will be used to divert qualifying children/youth to the demonstration project.
- Kansas intends to decrease the length of stay for qualifying youth residing in a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility.

As a result

- 75% of youth diverted from a PRTF will not return for assessment within 6 months.
- The number of admissions to PRTFs will be reduced by 15%.
- The average length of stay will be reduced by 10% during year one of the demonstration.